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Please amend the first paragraph of the application as follows:

**CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is related to United States Patent Application number 10/635,884, (attorney docket number NWISP039), filed the same day as this application, United States Patent Application number 10/635,705, (attorney docket number NWISP041), filed the same day as this application, United States Patent Application number 10/635,793, (attorney docket number NWISP043), filed the same day as this application, United States Patent Application number 10/602,280, entitled "Improving Bandwidth, Framing and Error Detection in Communications Between Multi-Processor Clusters of Multi-Cluster Computer Systems," filed June 23, 2003 (attorney docket number NWISP045), and to United States Patent Application numbers 10/157,384 and 10/156,893, both of which were filed on May 28, 2002. All of the foregoing applications are hereby incorporated by reference.